Meantime, a memorandum on ist November, 1916, submitted by the Shipping Control Committee directed attention to the congestion of in French ports :—

" It is not only at British, but even more at French ports, that the flow of traffic is being impeded. Ships are being delayed in French ports to an extent that is causing serious waste of tonnage. The two following among many similar instances, have recently occurred :—

Thistleardy 7,600 tons d.w. :—
Arrived in roads, Bordeaux, about 9th October. Docked Bordeaux about 2 7th October.
Expected to be discharged i7th November. Say total five weeks, as compared with ten days in normal circumstances.

Algmana, 7,370 tons d.w. :—
Arrived in roads, Bordeaux, i3th October.
Still waiting berth 30th October.

With a view to preventing these delays, the Committee feel that His Majesty's Government would be well advised to press the French Govern-ment to do everything in their power to improve the condition at the ports, in order that vessels may receive prompter dispatch.

Acting upon instruction from the War Committee and with the sanction of the Admiralty and War Office, one of our members, Mr. Royden, made a special visit to certain of the ports in Northern France in June last, and presented a

report
containing a number of valuable
suggestions. Our